



GELLIGAER COMMUNITY COUNCIL CYNGOR CYMUNED GELLIGAER

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Office Hours/Oriau Swyddfa – Wednesday & Thursday 10.30am – 2.30pm

Ceri Mortimer

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL / CLERC Y CYNGOR

COUNCIL OFFICE / SWYDDFA Y CYNGOR

LLWYN ONN, PENPEDAIRHEOL, HENGOED

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Consultation and Public Engagement Officer
Corporate Policy Unit
Caerphilly County Borough Council
Ty Penallta
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9th January 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

CCBC Budget Consultation 2019/20

In relation to Caerphilly County Borough Council's 2019/20 budget proposals, members of Gelligaer Community Council, having engaged with local residents, put forward the following comments, which were unanimously agreed, for your consideration:

1. Gelligaer Community Council strongly opposes the proposed closure of Penallta Civic Amenity Site due to it being a well used facility, with higher tonnage than other sites such as Rhymney and Aberbargoed. There is good off road access to Penallta Civic Amenity on the Penallta Industrial Estate and it serves several large communities.

We also oppose suggestions of expanding Trehir, due to very poor access. Trehir has a single lane and bailey bridge accessing the site, which only allows access for 3 to 4 cars at a time. As a result, a buildup of traffic is likely to occur on the roundabout.

Also people do not travel north. Therefore the Rhymney Civic Amenity Site will not see more usage. We urge CCBC to base money saving decisions on tonnage and population.

Sites producing less tonnage and in more sparsely populated areas should be considered for closure to make savings.

We therefore urge that Penallta Civic Amenity Site remain open.

2. Gelligaer Community Council opposes the proposal of introducing charges for rat treatment.

If charges are applied, rat sightings and infestations will go unreported, thus becoming a public health issue.

A system whereby victims are blamed is unfair, victims should not be held to account.

3. Gelligaer Community Council strongly opposes the voluntary sector cuts.

Barnardos are far more effective at providing family support than the council. Cutting this voluntary support is counterproductive as vulnerable families will lean more heavily on Social Services.

Also our Citizen's Advice Bureau is regarded as a life line to many in areas of high deprivation, and people would find it extremely challenging to lose a much needed and highly used service. Members of the public have reported that your budget consultation paper is misleading as it is scant on detail with reference to 'Reduction in voluntary sector Service Level Agreements'.

Gelligaer Community Council abhors cuts to the voluntary sector

4. Gelligaer Community Council objects to the proposed reduction of 1 hour caretakers support across all centres from April and further, the proposal to remove caretakers support from all centres from October.

We urge CCBC to adopt a different approach by looking at the income/expenditure, balances and usage of each centre in turn.

We also object to the reduction in subsidy at Glanynant Memorial Hall.

Community Centres are the hub of our communities. It is where community spirit, support and friendship is found.

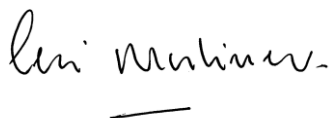
We strongly recommend that CCBC looks at each centre as opposed to an across the board approach before making any decisions..

5. Gelligaer Community Council objects to the cessation of the Community Warden service. The wardens are the "eyes and ears of our community, helping to keep our streets safe", working in partnership with other organizations. Losing this service will inevitably mean our streets will be less safe.

6. Toilet Strategy

In view of the recent publication of the strategy for consultation, we feel that CCBC is premature in proposing the closure of public toilets, and a decision on this subject should be deferred.

Yours faithfully



Ceri Mortimer
Clerk to the Council